



South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education Newsletter

From the President

For many years, educational leaders in South Carolina have worked to ensure that all students have access to an appropriate education. During the past decade, some of these educators have focused upon what we should and could do for our gifted and talented students.

Many of you remember piloting the South Carolina Performance Tasks so that we could begin to identify students who would be overlooked by traditional assessments. Others can reflect on the time and effort put into revising cur-

riculum so that the needs of identified gifted learners would be met. Perhaps you can think of other ways that change has been an important factor in shaping gifted education in its current form in our state.

This year at the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Convention, a team of four educators from South Carolina will receive the 2006 NAGC President's Award. In her letter announcing this award, Dr. Joyce Van Tassel-Baska says, "Over the past seven years, your vision and proactive stance on

policy, advocacy, issues of poverty, and attention to underrepresented populations have been an exemplary model. I personally want to convey my very best wishes and congratulate you on this wonderful achievement!" Dr. Wayne Lord, Donna Darby, Dr. Fran O'Tuel, and Jane Snyder are the recipients of this award.

Having our state program recognized in such a way is indeed an honor! I feel that I am receiving this prestigious award on behalf of all the hard-working
(continued on p. 5)

SCCGE Conference 2006 is "Taking Flight!" November 27—29 Charleston, S.C.

The annual SCCGE Conference will be held November 27—29, 2006, in Charleston at the Charleston Place Hotel. Featured guests will include Dr. James Gallagher, Professor Emeritus of the University of North

Carolina, who will deliver the opening address, and his daughter, Dr. Sheilagh Gallagher. Dr. Joyce Van Tassel Baska of the College of William and Mary, will relate a story which should inspire all South Carolina

gifted educators. Additional consultants include Michael Thompson, Dr. Elissa Brown, and hopefully, Dr. Sandra Kaplan. Teachers will be interested to see lessons videotaped in three (continued on p.2)

SCCGE Conference Theme "Taking Flight"

Quarterly Issue

September 25, 2006

Dates to Remember

- ☺ October 18: SCCGE Board Meeting, C2 Offices
- ☺ October 30: Deadline early registration, SCCGE
- ☺ November 1—5: NAGC Conference, Charlotte
- ☺ November 27: State G/T Coordinators Meeting, Charleston
- ☺ November 27-29: Annual SCCGE Conference

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Duke TIP in South Carolina Schools: A Strong Tradition

South Carolina ranks 1st in percent of population that participates in the 7th Grade Talent Search among all 16 states in its Duke TIP region. Nearly 6,000 S.C. gifted students applied and 4 out of 5 school districts in the state participated last year. You, the educators, should take pride in your collective dedication to helping these gifted youth fulfill their potential.

If you are among the participating schools—thank you! If you would like to participate but aren't familiar with the program, here is some information to get started.

- ◆ Talent Search identifies 7th graders based on test scores.

- ◆ Eligible students must have scored at least the 95th percentile or better on an acceptable subtest of a norm-referenced achievement or approved state criterion-referenced test.
- ◆ Qualified candidates are invited to take either the SAT or ACT college entrance exam.
- ◆ Duke TIP wants all qualified students to be able to participate. Students who are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch program may apply for fee grants which greatly reduce registration fees.

Benefits of the Talent Search include:

1. providing an opportunity for students to pursue an above-level testing experience to build test-taking skills
2. receiving various educational resources from grades 7 through 10
3. high scoring students recognized by the state
4. may also qualify for Duke TIP's Summer Residential Program and e-Studies Programs with scores achieved on the SAT/ACT.

Talent Search Materials are sent to schools in late August.

(continued on p. 4)

Region Four News (Region Leaders: Betty Sanders, Marva Tigner)

Region 4 gifted and talented coordinators met on August 23, 2006. With 7 districts represented, we set tentative dates for our meeting for the rest of the school year as follows:

October 25

November 27 (at G/T conference)

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 30

We discussed year one reports submitted to the State Department of Education. Some of our main accomplishments for this year were reinstating our artistic programs, sponsoring an artistic workshop for artistic leaders, offering courses for G/T endorsement to teachers, and sponsoring a socio-emotional workshop for

guidance counselors. We are currently in the process of getting additional teachers endorsed.

This year our focus is differentiation. We are planning to offer an interactive workshop as soon as possible. We are also encouraging our teachers to attend the state and national G/T conferences.

Contributed by Betty Sanders

SCCGE Conference 2006 (continued from p. 1)

South Carolina school districts and to hear an analysis of each lesson by one of the featured consultants at the conference. Participants may elect to spend an entire day with Michael Thompson for language instruction or Dr. Sheilagh Gallagher for training in problem based learning. Pre-registration will be required for these sessions. There will be a day

for the arts on Tuesday, November 28th, and a strand for guidance counselors and teachers dealing with the socio/emotional needs of gifted students.

Other conference topics are William and Mary Language Arts, Science, and Math curricula, instructional strategies appropriate for the gifted classroom, the shared inquiry method, how

to use the G.I.F.T. software to manage your gifted and talented database, and the latest information on high schools in South Carolina.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for a registration form.

We hope to see all of you in Charleston!

Check Out These Websites! (from *Parenting for High Potential*, NAGC)

♦ New NASA website Space Exploration

NASA is offering a new website to encourage students to engage in science, engineering, and mathematical concepts by investigating questions such as, "Why do we want to travel to Mars?" "How would your body change in space?" "Where would a space explorer find water and oxygen?" "How can we travel faster in space?" Student actors on video and hands-on activities are featured with each answer. The 21st Century Explorer site is designed for grades 3–5 and is available in Spanish. Visit

<http://ksnn.larc.nasa.gov/21Century/index2.html>.

♦ Calling on Toy Designers

Toys are a great way to learn about science, engineering, and the design process. Sally Ride science offers students in grades 5–8 the chance to develop engineering and design skills by creating their dream toy for the 5th annual TOYchallenge, which launches this fall. Entries are due January 26, 2007. To get started, teams must find an adult coach and sign up this fall. Teams choose from themed-toy categories like "Games

for the Family" or "Get Out and Play" and start brainstorming! At least half of the members on each team must be girls. All submissions will be judged on originality, creativity, engineering elegance, feasibility, design process description, team participation, and clarity of communication.

For more information visit www.toychallenge.com/abouttc.shtml.

"The first questions are always to be asked, and the wisest doctor is amazed by the inquisitiveness of a child."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Administrative Institute for Gifted Education

In July teachers and administrators from around the state enrolled in the Administrative G/T Institute at Converse College. The State Department of Education funded the course to prepare leaders to direct gifted programs in their districts. Guest instructors shared their expertise with participants, including Dr. Wayne Lord, David Escue, Anna Pruitt, and Cindy Henderson. Dr. Nancy Breard

of Converse developed the course and provided sessions on leadership and program evaluation.

Those completing the Institute were:

Shirley Burke—Florence 4

Dale Goff—Union

Matia Goodwin—Kershaw

Melissa Gregory—Union

Kim Harris—Rock Hill

Beverly Holt-Pilkey—Horry

TJ Jones—Sumter 17

Jill Morris—Spartanburg 7

Nelle Neal—Chester

Rebecca Paquette—Darlington

Wendy Ray—Clarendon 2

Kay Sellers—Florence 3

Jeffrey Stribble—Union

Contributed by Dr. Nancy Breard

Acceleration: Difficult Decision—Easy Solution

Why is it, when faced with the decision to accelerate frustrated, bored, struggling gifted children, the opinions we often listen to come from uninformed, well-meaning family, friends, and school personnel? It's time to listen to the real experts—the volumes of research conducted over the last 50 years by the most learned in our field and the families

who have done it. In a recent survey, 26 parents representing 22 children shared their experiences. None of the families made this decision without a great deal of soul-searching. Most had to initiate discussion and provide volumes of literature that supports acceleration before administrators would even consider it. The people who should know and under-

stand are often the least supportive.

Keys to Making a Wise Decision

- ♦ Read the research.
- ♦ Consult local, state, and national organizations for resources.
- ♦ Consult your local gifted coordinator for information.

(continued on p. 6)

Charleston Awarded \$1.17 Million Advanced Placement Incentive Grant

Charleston County Schools has been named as a recipient of a \$1.17 million federal Advanced Placement Incentive Grant. The US Department of Education awards "competitive grants that are designed to increase successful participation of low-income students in AP courses and tests. By supporting increased access to and participation in these programs," there are greater opportunities for low-income students to achieve high standards in core subjects.

The Charleston Advanced Placement Strategy (CHAPS) project is an innovative plan to prepare students

for challenging curriculum that will culminate in enrollment in, and successful completion of, a series of AP courses. A strong teacher training component, school-wide infusion of high expectations for student achievement, the establishment of a peer group support system, and parental and community involvement activities are critical aspects in this initiative.

The 3 primary goals of the CHAPS project are:

1. All high school students will have access to a minimum of 3 AP courses, either through in-class

instruction, on-line course work, or video teleconferenced classes.

2. All AP students will be adequately prepared for the academic challenge of the program.
3. Each AP class will reflect the demographics (gender, race, SES) of the school in which it is taught.

Congratulations to Denise Zacherl, GT Coordinator of Charleston County Schools, who wrote the grant, and to the high school learning communities for making this commitment.

Contributed by Dr. Anne Godbee

Doing Gifted the "Wright Way" in North Carolina

Mark Your Calendars!

NAGC Conference

Charlotte Convention Center

November 1st—5th!

The National Association for Gifted Children will hold its 53rd annual convention in

Charlotte, N.C., November 1—5, 2006. The theme of this year's conference addresses "Reaching For Rigor and Relevance."

Speakers include:

Dr. Sylvia Rimm

Dr. Sally Reis

Dr. James Gallagher

Dr. Sandra Kaplan

See page 9 for registration deadlines!

(continued on p. 9)

Duke TIP Program (continued from p. 2)

To learn more about the program, visit the website at www.tip.duke.edu. There are 2 ways to register for Talent Search:

1. Online at website
2. Application from a counselor/teacher at school
3. Call TIP office at 919-668-9100

Registration Deadlines:

- ◆ December Testing - 10/1
- ◆ January, February Testing Paper Application—11/1
- Online application—11/30

2006 SC 7th Grade Statistics:

- ◆ Total Applicants—5,990
- ◆ State Recognition—995

- ◆ Grand Recognition—29

- ◆ Fee Grants Given—863

Contributed by: Lisa Langberg

Duke TIP Program

Jane Snyder

"...With regard to excellence, it is not enough to know, but we must try to have knowledge and use it."

Aristotle

From the President (continued from p. 1)

coordinators of gifted and talented programs across our state. Our collective accomplishments have brought us this recognition, and we need to celebrate the great work that has been done!

If you are attending the NAGC Convention, please be present at the Annual Assembly on Friday, November 3rd at 5:45 p.m. I'm certain that you'll be proud to be a gifted educator from South Carolina!

On another note, I want to stress

again the importance of each school district in South Carolina joining the South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education this year. SCCGE offers its members many benefits, including discounted registration fees for our annual state conference, staff development opportunities, and this quarterly newsletter, just to name a few.

As we continue to develop the best opportunities for gifted children in South Carolina, it is essential that we all participate in regional staff development opportunities and that we continue to build a network of knowl-

edgeable and informed educators. We must continue to grow, not just celebrate our past accomplishments.

I look forward to seeing each one of you in Charleston on Monday, November 27th for the State Gifted and Talented Coordinators' Meeting as the first part of the 2006 SCCGE Conference.

Thank you for all you do for gifted children in South Carolina.

Jane Snyder

Changes to S.C. Gifted Identification System Announced

At the August 11th Update meeting for Gifted and Talented Coordinators, several changes in the South Carolina system for identifying students for possible gifted services were announced. These changes are summarized as follows. Changes will also be discussed during G.I.F.T. training sessions this fall which are sponsored by SCCGE. (Changes are in color.)

STAR/Performance Tasks

Students in grades 2 and 4 meeting the criteria in A or B but not both take Performance Tasks. Students in grades 3 and 5 meeting the criteria in A or B but not both take Performance Tasks if they did not take them in grades 2 and 4 respectively. **Students take Performance Tasks once at the Primary Level and once at the Intermediate Level.**

Aptitude: Dimension A

Students who score 93rd national age percentile rank in any subtest or 93rd—95th national age percentile rank on the composite. (Score of 96th+ national age percentile on composite qualifies for placement.) Two year old data accepted. This remains same.

(continues on p. 7)

Region Six News (Leaders: Leigh Sloan, Rebecca Paquette)

Region Six GT coordinators met on September 11, 2006 to discuss plans for the upcoming school year. Donna Darby of Carolinian Consultancy worked with coordinators to determine needs for their region. It was decided that the focus this year will be on differentiation of curriculum and instruction. During 2006—2007 this professional development region

hopes to offer the following opportunities to participating districts:



1. Training for teachers and coordinators in effective instructional strategies for gifted students
2. Training for teachers on differ

entiation of curriculum, to include curriculum compacting.

1. Evaluation of instructional needs in the region through voluntary classroom observations, with a follow-up reporting session in the

(continued on p. 7)

Acceleration: Difficult Decision-Easy Solution (continued from p.3)

- ◆ Review state and local public school acceleration policies.
- ◆ Talk to others who have accelerated their children—gifted chat rooms abound.
- ◆ Talk to your child.
- ◆ Trust your instincts.

Differentiated education is not an extra perk deemed necessary by pushy parents. It's a research-supported strategy. The success of acceleration as a viable option has also stood the test of time. Research supports the fact that acceleration is easy, cost effective, and often the

best option for gifted children. It does not hurry them out of childhood or hurt them socially. In fact, it can restore attitudes, motivation, and enthusiasm for learning as well as helping to solve social problems. "I told my son to 'look for the nugget' during the day, the one thing he had never heard before. It was 2 months before it occurred to me that I'd walk out of a conference on day 2 if I had to sit all day looking for one thing I didn't already know." (parent of child accelerated from gr. 1 to 3) When asked if they would choose acceleration again, all the families re-

sponded "Absolutely!" Acceleration is an easy solution. The decision is difficult.

By Sandra Warren

(excerpt from *Parenting for High Potential*,
NAGC)

What the kids say:

"I like to do harder stuff and have it more challenging as my grade level work is too easy!"

"I'm more like the kids now and I still get good grades!"

Focus on Differentiation: Region 3

(Region Leaders Linda Shaylor, Anne Elam, Marty Santiago)

Gifted Professional Development Region 3 met during September in order to begin working on an agenda for the 2006-2007 school year. District Gifted Three-Year Plans were discussed as well as the Year-One Reports. Participants shared information about their district's activities during the first year of the three-year plan. Coordinators for districts

in this region made suggestions for improvement of templates for this reporting, which will be forwarded to the State Department of Education for consideration.

Linda Shaylor, one of the Region 3 leaders, presented a video, "How to Develop a Professional Learning Community: Passion and Persistence," to

the group, which was followed by discussion.

Regional coordinators expressed interest in pursuing a differentiation theme during the school year and leaders are in the process of developing specific plans to meet this need.

Contributed by Linda Shaylor

Plans for G/T Coordinators Meeting: November 27, 2006

The next meeting of G/T Coordinators is planned for November 27, 2006 at the Charleston Place Hotel. Besides receiving important updates from the State Department of Education, participants will be treated to a presentation by Dr. Anne Robinson of the University of Arkansas on "Instructional Strategies for Gifted Students" in the morning, followed by

lunch. After lunch, Dr. Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, College of William and Mary, will discuss steps in developing a district program scope and sequence plan for gifted and talented instruction. This discussion is important for SC educators in completing goals for their District G/T



SCCGE Conference
2006
Charleston, S.C.

plans.

You will receive more information concerning this event from the State Department in the near future.

The Latest from Region 8 (Region Leaders Jane Snyder, Cindy Henderson)

Region 8 Meeting Dates 2006-07

- ♦ October 13
- ♦ November—during SCCGE Conference
- ♦ March 2
- ♦ April 13
- ♦ May 11

Members of Gifted Professional Development Region 8 met on September 8, 2006. The meeting dates for the 2006-2007 school year were determined as outlined above.

Plans for this year's professional development were also discussed. These plans include hosting guidance sessions on Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20, 2007 with Dr. Rick Olenchak. On Friday, there will be two sessions for GT Coordinators and Guidance Counselors, 9:00 am -12:00 noon and 1:00 -4:00 pm. On Saturday, the 9:00 am—1:00 pm session will be open to all educators and



From the Upstate!

parents. Educators are requested to read *Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults* prior to these sessions.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact Cindy Henderson or Jane Snyder.

Contributed by Jane Snyder

Changes to SC Gifted Identification System (cont. from p. 5)

Achievement: Dimension B

Students who score 94th percentile rank on Reading Comprehension or Math Concepts and Problem Solving on a nationally normed achievement test or advanced on PACT.

Most recent PACT; most recent nationally norm-referenced achievement test; Fall or first MAP test of current school year.

Performance: Dimension C

Gr. 2 STAR	Verbal 16
Gr. 2 STAR	Nonverbal 16
Gr. 3 STAR	Verbal 18
Gr. 3 STAR	Nonverbal 18
Gr. 4 STAR	Verbal 16
Gr. 4 STAR	Nonverbal 22
Gr. 5 STAR	Verbal 18
Gr. 5 STAR	Nonverbal 25

Grade 7 and above

- ♦ 3.75 or better on 4.0 GPA scale
- ♦ Use grades in core subjects from previous grade.
- ♦ Core subjects:

ELA	Math
Science	Social Studies
Foreign Language	
- ♦ This remains the same.

Contributed by Donna Darby

Region 6 News (continued from p. 5)

- early spring.
4. Training in and the implementation of the "Brain Boosters" program, which was developed by Spartanburg School District 7.
 5. A workshop on differentiation for the gifted conducted by Dr. Carol Tieso, College of William and Mary

6. A workshop on "Thinking and the S.C. Standards" conducted by Dr. Loren Anderson.

They would also like to be able to provide regional participants with pertinent materials and supplies.



Region Six:
"Taking Flight"

Regional leader, Leigh Sloan, is in the process of developing proposals for trying to meet the needs expressed by the Region.

Contributed by Leigh Sloan

SCCGE Professional Development Regions

**Hope to see
there**

Region 1

Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Oconee
Pickens

Leaders:

Anna Pruitt, Beverly Romansky

Region 2

Abbeville
Aiken
Greenwood 50, 51, 52
Edgefield
Laurens 55, 56
McCormick
Newberry
Saluda

Leaders:

Cathy Chalmers, David Mathis

Region 3

Kershaw
Lexington 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Richland 1, 2
Sumter 2, 17

Leaders:

Anne Elam, Marty Santiago, Linda Shaylor

Region 4

Allendale
Bamberg 1, 2
Barnwell 19, 29, 45
Colleton
Hampton 1, 2
Jasper

Leaders:

Betty Sanders, Marva Tigner

Region 5

Beaufort
Berkeley
Calhoun
Charleston 8
Dorchester 2, 4
Georgetown
Horry

Leaders:

Debbie Call, Merrie Fisher, Kristy Smith

Region 6

Clarendon 1, 2, 3
Darlington
Dillon 1, 2, 3
Florence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lee
Marion 1, 2, 7
Marlboro
Williamsburg

Leaders:

Rebecca Paquette, Leigh Sloan

Region 7

Cherokee
Chesterfield
Chester
Fairfield
Lancaster
York 1, 2, 3, 4

Leaders:

Margaret Boyd, Tom McDuffie

Region 8

Greenville
Spartanburg 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Leaders:

Cindy Henderson, Jane Snyder

SCCGE Conference Theme "Taking Flight"

SCCGE
Post Office Box 255
Irmo, South Carolina
29063

Phone: 803-796-6111
Fax: 803-796-6155
Email: jgray@sc.rr.com

Change is good! We'll go first!



SCCGE



SCCGE and its Newsletter needs your information and input!! Please take the time to send articles about your classroom, students, personal achievements, school or district to Joy Gray by December 15th. The next issue of the Newsletter will be published the first of January and we need to hear from you.

We will only be able to continue to grow and sustain our national leadership in the field of gifted education if we are all connected and informed. This Newsletter is an inexpensive and

Doing Gifted the "Wright" Way

(cont. from p.4)

Registration Deadlines include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| ♦ Early Registration | 9/15 |
| ♦ Housing Deadline | 10/6 |
| ♦ Regular Registration | 10/25 |
| ♦ Cancellation Deadline | 10/25 |

And just who do you think you are???

Elementary teacher?

Middle School teacher?

Guidance Counselor?

Log on to www.nagc.org and learn what sessions are highlighted for your specific needs!

Calling All Writers!

efficient way to accomplish this goal. It can only work for all of us if all of us contribute.

Items may be:

- ♦ Emailed to jgray@sc.rr.com
- ♦ Faxed to 803-796-6111
- ♦ Mailed to
SCCGE
P.O. Box 255
Irmo, S.C. 29063

Hope to hear from you soon!



"Knowledge is to be acquired only by a corresponding experience. How can we know what we are told merely? Each man can interpret another's experience only by his own."

Henry David Thoreau

SOUTH CAROLINA CONSORTIUM FOR GIFTED EDUCATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Taking Flight

November 27-29, 2006 Charleston Place, Charleston

Please complete one form per person registering. Mail registration forms by **October 30, 2006** to:

Carolinian Consultancy

989 Knox Abbott Drive

Cayce, SC 29033

(803) 796-6111 ~ Fax: (803) 796-6155 ~ C2@C2five.com

Donna Darby, David Escue, Joy Gray, Dr. Fran O'Tuel, Patricia Plunkett

Name: _____ District _____

School: _____ Phone: _____

Teacher: Elementary ___ Middle ___ High ___ School/District Administrator ___ Parent ___ Other: ___

Registration will be confirmed via email. Print address clearly. _____

I request evidence of session attendance for my district professional development program.

Registration With Membership Postmarked By October 30, 2006

Full Conference: \$200.00 One day only: \$150.00 **NOTE:** On-site: \$300.00

Registration Without Membership and/or Postmarked After October 30, 2006

Full Conference: \$260.00 One day only: \$200.00 **NOTE:** On-site: \$300.00

Please see pages 2 and 3 of this brochure for detail of daily events.

Registration for Special Sessions (Place an x by the session you wish to attend.)

To attend these full-day workshops at the conference, you must register on this form.

___ **Problem based Unit Development 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. November 28, 2006**

Shelagh Gallagher, Ph. D.

___ **Grammar for the Teacher 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. November 28, 2006**

Michael Thompson

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SCCGE EIN#(Tax Identification): 57-0861817

- Please contact your district gifted coordinator for subscription status if unknown. To purchase a district staff development subscription (\$100.00), contact Joy Gray, 803-796-6111.
- **Purchase orders are accepted. Please consider this registration form as the official invoice. No additional invoice will be sent.**
- Registration on site will be limited to space available. Conference materials may not be available for on-site registrants.
- Since we plan for your attendance when you register, no refunds can be given for registration fees.
- For additional information you may contact SCCGE Officers: Jane Snyder, President; Debbie Call, President Elect; Tom McDuffie, Immediate Past President; Marva Tigner, Secretary; Joy Gray, Treasurer.